

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their 62 local stations, many in battleground states, to preempt regular programming to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" days before the election is a clear and extremely disturbing example of the dangers of media consolidation. In addition to being highly partisan, their action violates every principle of responsible and ethical broadcast coverage.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. They also show us that Sinclair's broadcast licenses should not be renewed.

Thank you.